

**Official****IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of

**O'BRIEN et al**

Serial No. 09/043,406

Filed: 18 March 1998

Atty. Ref.: 36-1148

Group: 2763

Examiner: George Morgan  
(306-2906)For: **SERVICE PROVISION SYSTEM FOR USE IN  
DISTRIBUTED PROCESSING ENVIRONMENTS**\*\*\*\*\*  
**August 16, 1999**Honorable Commissioner of Patents  
and Trademarks  
Washington, DC 20231**BY FACSIMILE (305-0040)**

Sir:

**SUBSTITUTE PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and in substitution for the March 18, 1998 preliminary amendment (drawn to the unamended original PCT application claims) in order to place the above identified application (with the amended PCT claims now on file in this US national phase application) in better condition for examination, please amend the specification and claims as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Page 1, first line of text, before (numbered) line 4, insert:

**-- RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This is a continuation-in-part of our co-pending commonly assigned U.S. application

Serial No. 08/695,528 filed 6 June 1996 (now abandoned) and a US national phase application